AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c) The All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987 has come into force with effect from 28th March, 1988 and the new statutory All India Council for Technical Education has been established with effect from 12th May, 1988 by the issue of necessary notifications in the official gazette. Necessary action has also been initiated to complete as early as possible all preparations including formulation of new norms, guidelines standards, rules regulations and acquiring of facilities for the secretariat of the Council to make it operational.

The first meeting of the new statutory Council has been held on 6th July, 1988. The response of the various States has been favourable. All have welcomed the proposed role of the new statutory Council as provided in the Act.

Chartered flights from other countries

63. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that introduction of chartered flights from different countries to India has been permitted;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the share-percentage of Air India in these additional flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) In 1987-88 tourist Charters were permitted to be operated by M/s. Inspired Itineraries, U.K. for Gatwick (U.K.)—Goa, M/s. Austrian Air Transport for Vienna-Delhi, M/s. Condor, West Germany for Munich-Goa and M/s. Burma Airways for Rangoon-Calcutta.

For 1988-89 operation of tourist charters has been permitted to M/s. Kerco Charters, Canada for Toronto-Calcutta, M/s. Inspirations East Ltd., U.K. for Gatwick (U.K.)-Goa and M/s. ILG Travels Ltd., U.K. for Gatwick (U.K.)-Goa.

(c) Since no charter was or is likely to be operated by Air India the question of its percentage share does not arise.

Promotion of tourism by hotels having rating lesser than five star

64. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the desirability of having more hotels of lesser rating than five star hotels to promote tourism;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government also propose to handover tourism to the private sector; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Government recognizes the desirability of maintaining a balanced growth of hotel accommodation of all star categories so as to cater to tourists of all income groups. However, with a view to meeting the